Syllabus Political Psychology Guest Seminar Lammers

Course instructor: Prof. dr. Joris Lammers
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Location: IBW CCCP Meeting room
Schedule: Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:30 (starting on 11.10.22)

Political Psychology
Political Psychology is the interdisciplinary study of political cognition and behavior by the use of psychological methods and approaches. It is a hot topic and one of the fastest-growing fields in psychology. Insights in political psychology offer students in political science a more basic understanding of the psychological processes guiding political judgment and decision making.

Course Objectives and Structure
The aim of the course is to gain a first understanding of the approach and some of the major recent contributions. To reach these goals, we read, reflect on, and discuss 10 journal articles by internationally renowned scholars whose work is at the cutting edge of research. Most of these are contributions to general interest journals. These are typically short (3 - 6 pages) manuscripts aimed at a general audience, accompanied by a Supplement (SOM) that contain methodological and analytic details that you may want to consult to answer specific questions. In each of the sessions, we will debate one article. The last sessions are devoted to sharing perspectives on the term paper and answering any questions or concerns that pop up during the process.

Attendance and Preparation
The goal of the session is to better understand the literature through debating. I will first ask a few of you to present the paper (give a short summary) and then we discuss the paper. It is therefore important that if you come to class, you come well-prepared. This means: you need to have read the paper and you need to bring a copy, either printed or on an e-reader / tablet. Please do not bring a laptop to class to read the paper; opened laptops in class decrease learning outcomes, for both the people using the laptop and others sitting close-by. (For research on that topic, see: http://socialpsychonline.com/2016/08/laptops-in-the-classroom/).

Ethics and Climate
Discussing politics can sometimes be a touchy issue. Some people may have very strong personal feelings about certain political issues or be particularly sensitive about them. Therefore, I ask that we make sure that we all make an effort to be respectful to one another. It is also very important that we allow each other to express their opinion and that we do not fear censorship of content or phrases. Also, we keep the discussions we have in the course confidential and do not make recordings.

Literature:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Cw56p0xhvbQXMDTr0knpl-kFRPcOEKh4?usp=sharing

Literature and Schedule
11.10. Rationality, automaticity
Todorov, A., Mandisodza, A. N., Goren, A., & Hall, C. C. (2005). Inferences of competence from faces predict election outcomes. *Science, 308*(5728), 1623-1626.

18.10. Inequality and Wealth Redistribution
Sands, M. L. (2017). Exposure to inequality affects support for redistribution. *PNAS, 114*(4), 663-668.

25.10. Morality
Haidt, J., Graham, J., & Joseph, C. (2009). Above and below left–right: Ideological narratives and moral foundations. *Psychological Inquiry, 20*, 110-119.

01.11 No Meeting

8.11. Framing
Baldwin, M., & Lammers, J. (2016). Past-focused environmental comparisons promote proenvironmental outcomes for conservatives. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 113*, 14953–14957.

15.11. Bridging
Kubin, E., Puryear, C., Schein, C., & Gray, K. (2021). Personal experiences bridge moral and political divides better than facts. *PNAS, 118*(6).

22.11. Polarization and Echo Chambers
Bail, C. A., Argyle, L. P., Brown, T. W., Bumpus, J. P., Chen, H., Hunzaker, M. B. F. et al. (2018). Exposure to opposing views on social media can increase political polarization. *PNAS, 115*(37), 9216-9221.

29.11. Emerging New Perspectives on Ideology
Proulx, T., Costin, V., Magazin, E., Zarzeczna, N., & Haddock, G. (2022). The progressive values scale: assessing the ideological schism on the Left. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

6.12. Conspiracy Theories
Imhoff, R., Zimmer, F., Klein, O., António, J. H. C., Babinska, M., Bangerter, A. et al. (2022). Conspiracy mentality and political orientation across 26 countries. *Nature Human Behavior*.

13.12. Extremism
Jasko, K., LaFree, G., & Kruglanski, A. (2016). Quest for significance and violent extremism: The case of domestic radicalization. *Political Psychology.*

20.12. Peace and Reconciliation
Halperin, E., Russell, A. G., Trzesniewski, K. H., Gross, J. J., & Dweck, C. S. (2011). Promoting the middle east peace process by changing beliefs about group malleability. *Science, 333*(6050), 1767-1769.

10.1   Term paper Preparation and Discussion Meeting

17.1   Term paper Preparation and Discussion Meeting

24.1   Term paper Preparation and Discussion Meeting

31.1   Final Meeting

7.2   Deadline Handing in Term Paper
     via email as PDF to joris.lammers@uni-koeln.de

Grade:
30% active participation in class
70% term paper

Term paper:
Your term paper should be in one of the following three formats:

- o **A Research Project.** How would you continue this research? If you were to pursue own research in political science, political psychology, or a related field, how would you use these insights to develop your own research? Of course, do not feel the need to design a worked-out policy proposal, but try and think about any future research one could pursue. Describe the idea, the method (how would you set up one or more studies to test this idea), and what would you expect to find? How would that help the literature? What practical or theoretical implications would this have? Why is this important and interesting (beyond your subjective assessment).
- o **An Applied Plan.** How would you apply this research? If you were a politician, a consultant, a policy maker, a teacher designing a curriculum or class-room project, etc. etc., how would you use this research. Describe the idea, the practical implementation, and your evaluation of the success of this implementation.
- o **A Popular Scientific Article.** As a journalist, write a popular scientific article. Explain to a general audience the research and its relevance. For example, take a recent political event or something that happened in the world and explain it by discussing this research.

Structure:
  - 1 cover page (with your name, Matrikelnummer, and other relevant data)
  - About 10 pages (3,000 words – font size 12, Times New Roman, doubled lined) text.
  - Literature / References